

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 143

Recognizing and commending the courage of Iraqi women candidates in the
January 30, 2005, Iraqi elections.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER (for herself, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. OSBORNE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. ACKERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and commending the courage of Iraqi women
candidates in the January 30, 2005, Iraqi elections.

Whereas, on January 30, 2005, more than eight million Iraqis voted in unprecedented elections to select a national assembly, 18 provincial assemblies, and for the northern part of the country, a Kurdistan regional assembly;

Whereas for the first time in the history of Iraq, a 275-member Transitional National Assembly that will serve as Iraq's national legislature will be seated;

Whereas the national legislature will have the vital task of drafting Iraq's constitution;

Whereas over 2,000 women ran for office and it is expected that women will occupy 31 percent of the seats in the National Assembly;

Whereas women's nongovernmental organizations played an active role in voter education and many women participated as election monitors;

Whereas these women displayed unwavering courage and many of them suffered intimidation and violence designed to discourage their participation;

Whereas several women who participated in the electoral process lost loved ones and family members to terrorist actions; and

Whereas the United States played a significant role in supporting democracy-building programs that helped Iraqi women candidates learn democratic organization and advocacy skills: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses the unequivocal support and ap-
3 preciation of the United States to the Iraqi women
4 who have played an important role, and will continue
5 to play an important role, in the economic develop-
6 ment of Iraq, the building of civil society, and the
7 creation of lasting democratic institutions in Iraq;

8 (2) notes that Iraqi women are furthermore cre-
9 ating a climate in which women can continue to en-
10 gage in the political process by playing active roles
11 as educators, engineers, police and military per-

1 sonnel, government officials, and small business
2 owners;

3 (3) commends the Iraqi women candidates who
4 endured personal danger to run for office in their
5 country's first democratic elections; and

6 (4) encourages ongoing programs designed to
7 support Iraqi women to participate more fully in a
8 democratic Iraq.

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